

A COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOVELS WHICH
WERE BEST SELLERS WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF
PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE YEARS
1946 THROUGH 1955

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

BY
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SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Politically, economically, and socially the decade from 1945 to 1955 was called by Eric Goldman "The Crucial Decade in America";¹ it was also labelled, "The Dismal Decade", "Years of Neuroses", and "The Age of the Vacuum Tube."² These were the first years of the peace after a World War; years of undreamed of scientific discoveries such as atomic energy, hydrogen bombs, and television. These were the years of the Cold War, the Korean police action, and the ever-present threat of war. According to Robert Morss Lovett "...a novel embodies something of the intellectual and social interest of the public to which it is addressed ..."³ Although the reading of the American people during this period may not reflect the influence of the prevailing social conditions, literature is never isolated from the society which creates and accepts it.

The terms "best seller" and "Pulitzer Prize winner" have exerted, over the years, a great influence on the American reading

¹Eric F. Goldman, The Crucial Decade: America 1945-1955 (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956).

²Ibid., p. 290.

³Robert Morss Lovett, Preface to Fiction (Chicago: Thomas S. Rockwell Co., 1931), p. 23.

public. The best seller is commonly thought of as the choice of the public as indicated by booksellers' sales records, although it has been argued that this choice is not always self initiated. In the discussion which follows this point will be neither denied nor affirmed; the writer believes that best sellers, whether sought or forced upon the public, still represent a form of publication to which a large portion of the reading population responds. The Pulitzer Prize novels, however, are chosen by the Columbia University School of Journalism on the basis of literary excellence. The best sellers and the Pulitzer Prize novels represent an echo of the interests of the times or the ideas which the public has mulled over and, in some cases, digested during any one period.

The best seller novel first gained public recognition in 1895 with the publication, by the magazine The Bookman, of the first best seller list to be printed in the United States. Monthly lists of best selling books in a number of large cities were printed by The Bookman until 1912; during that year Publishers' Weekly took up the printing of the best seller lists.¹

The Pulitzer Prizes in letters, since their creation in 1917, have been active forces in the literary world. Under the terms of the will of Joseph Pulitzer, an American journalist, \$2,000,000 was left to Columbia University to establish a school of journalism and to provide annual awards in five areas: drama,

¹Alice P. Hackett, Sixty Years of Best Sellers (New York: Bowker Co., 1956), p. 2.

fiction, history, biography, and poetry. The award for fiction reads as follows "for a distinguished novel published during the year by an American author dealing with American life."¹

A picture of America's reading during the years 1946 through 1955 as represented by best seller and Pulitzer Prize novels, might be significant to the total picture of the social history of America.

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this study is to make a comparison of the novels which were best sellers with the novels which were Pulitzer Prize winners for the years 1946 to 1955 inclusive in terms of theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel. A further purpose is to determine what resemblance, if any, these novels have to one another in order to formulate tentative conclusions regarding the reading tastes of the period.

Methodology

The best sellers which were used in this study were selected from the annual lists of ten fiction titles included in the volume, Sixty Years of Best Sellers compiled by Alice P. Hackett.² With the exception of the year 1953, one title was selected for each of the years 1946 through 1955 on the following

¹Anne J. Richter (ed.), Literary Prizes and Their Winners (New York: Bowker Co., 1946), p. 26.

²Hackett, op. cit., pp. 184-211.

bases:

- (1) That the books appeared on the best seller lists solely in terms of the bookstore sales and were not also a book club selection or dividend, were not issued in Armed Services Editions, and were not issued in paperbound or inexpensive reprint editions. This limitation was made because it was felt that a book which appeared on the best seller list because of bookstore sales alone would represent more closely the self initiated choices of the reading public.
- (2) That the books appeared on the best seller lists during the first year of publication.
- (3) In an effort to achieve a more adequate basis for comparison of the best sellers with the novels eligible to receive the Pulitzer Prize, the best seller titles which were originally foreign publications were excluded from this study.
- (4) Since no Pulitzer Prize was awarded for fiction in 1953, the analysis of a best seller for 1953 was also excluded from the study.

In 1946 The Miracle of the Bells¹ by Russell Janney, appearing number four on the annual best seller list, was selected for analysis because it was the only book on the list

¹Russell Janney, Miracle of the Bells (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1946).

which was not a book club selection and appeared on the best seller list for the first time.¹

House Divided² by Ben Ames Williams, the novel selected for 1947, appeared number seven on the annual list and was the first of two novels which were not book club selections. Also it made its initial appearance on the 1947 best seller list.³

Lloyd C. Douglas' book, The Big Fisherman⁴ which was number one on the annual best seller list for 1948, was also on the list for the first time that year. This book greatly exceeded the sales of the other titles on the list for 1948.⁵

Two of the first three titles on the best seller list for 1949 were excluded from this study because they were published originally in foreign countries. The Big Fisherman, the third title, was excluded because of a previous appearance on the 1948 list. Therefore, A Rage to Live by John O'Hara, in fourth place, became the logical selection for analysis in this study.⁷

Joy Street⁸ by Frances P. Keyes was second on the list

¹Hackett, op. cit., p. 185.

²Ben Ames Williams, House Divided (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1947).

³Hackett, op. cit., p. 188.

⁴Lloyd C. Douglas, The Big Fisherman (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1948).

⁵Hackett, op. cit., p. 191.

⁶John O'Hara, A Rage to Live (New York: Random House, 1949).

⁷Hackett, op. cit., p. 194.

⁸Frances P. Keyes, Joy Street (New York: Julian Messner, 1950).

in 1950 and reached this position after only one months' distribution through the bookstores. The Cardinal by Morton Robinson, the number one title on the list, was excluded because it was published simultaneously in both cloth and paperbound editions.¹

From Here to Eternity² by James Jones headed the best seller list in 1951 and outsold every other fiction title in the bookstores during its first year of publication.³

The novel selected for 1952, The Silver Chalice⁴ by Thomas B. Costain, was also number one on the best seller list. Along with appearing on the list for the first time this book apparently was not aided in its sales by being a book club selection.⁵

Not as a Stranger⁶ by Morton Thompson, the 1954 selection qualified for this study because it was number one on the annual best seller list, because this was the first year that this novel appeared on the best seller list, and because its sales were not influenced by any other forces.⁷

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¹Hackett, op. cit., p. 197.

²James Jones, From Here to Eternity (New York: Charles Scribner, & Sons, 1951).

³Hackett, op. cit., p. 200.

⁴Thomas B. Costain, The Silver Chalice (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1952).

⁵Hackett, op. cit., p. 207.

⁶Morton Thompson, Not as a Stranger (New York: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1954).

⁷Hackett, op. cit., p. 209.

The book selected for 1955 was also the number one best seller on the annual list for that year. Marjorie Morningstar¹ by Herman Wouk apparently was not influenced by any factors other than public interest in achieving this position.²

The titles of the Pulitzer Prize novels for 1946 through 1955 as listed in the 1957 edition of the World Almanac were used in this study. The prizes were given for work done the preceding year³ and were awarded to the following:

- All the King's Men by Robert P. Warren⁴ (1947)
Tales of the South Pacific by James Michener⁵ (1948)
Guard of Honor by James G. Cozzen⁶ (1949)
Way West by Alfred B. Guthrie, Junior⁷ (1950)
The Town by Conrad Richter⁸ (1951)
Caine Mutiny by Herman Wouk⁹ (1952)

¹Herman Wouk, Marjorie Morningstar (New York: Doubleday, 1955).

²Hackett, op. cit., p. 212.

³Hansen, loc. cit.

⁴Robert P. Warren, All the King's Men (New York: Harcourt Brace & Co., 1946).

⁵James Michener, Tales of the South Pacific (New York: Macmillan Co., 1947).

⁶James G. Cozzen, Guard of Honor (New York: Macmillan Co., 1948).

⁷Alfred B. Guthrie Jr., Way West (New York: William Sloane, 1949).

⁸Conrad Richter, The Town (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1950).

⁹Herman Wouk, Caine Mutiny (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1951).

Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway¹ (1953)

A Fable by William Faulkner² (1955)

Andersonville by MacKinlay Kantor³ (1956)

The best seller and Pulitzer Prize novels were read and checked individually against a checklist which included the following areas:

A. Theme

1. Man vs. self
2. Man vs. man
3. Man vs. nature
4. Man vs. social institutions
 - a. religious institutions
 - b. governmental institutions
 - c. military institutions
 - d. social customs
 - e. the community

B. Characterization

1. Economic status
 - a. upper income level
 - b. middle income level
 - c. lower income level
2. Education
 - a. extensive
 - b. average
 - c. limited

C. Setting

1. Time
 - a. contemporary (20th century)
 - b. historical (Prior to the 20th century)

¹Ernest Hemingway, Old Man and the Sea (New York: Charles Scribner & Sons, 1952).

²William Faulkner, A Fable (New York: Random House, 1954).

³MacKinlay Kantor, Andersonville (Cleveland: World Publishing Co., 1955).

2. Place

- a. United States
 - (1) North
 - (2) South
 - (3) East
 - (4) West
 - (5) Territories of the United States
- b. Foreign countries
- c. Rural or urban localities

D. Treatment

- 1. Realistic
- 2. Romantic
- 3. Naturalistic
- 4. Regionalistic
- 5. Symbolic

E. Type of Novel

- 1. Biographical
- 2. Religious
- 3. Love
- 4. Problem novel
- 5. Psychological novel

In Chapter II the best seller novels and the Pulitzer Prize winners will be analyzed individually in terms of theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel.

CHAPTER II

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOVELS WHICH WERE BEST SELLERS AND THOSE WHICH WERE PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS FROM 1946 THROUGH 1955

Each of the best seller novels selected for the years 1946 through 1955, excluding 1953, and the Pulitzer Prize winners for these years was checked against the checklist of characteristics which included theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel. An analysis of these novels according to the characteristics indicated will be presented in this chapter.

In the discussion of theme it was decided that the theme could best be expressed in terms of the conflict of the main character with some force which he ultimately overcame or by which he was overcome. When that force was a part of the character, i. e., weakness, strength, innocence, ambition, etcetera, the theme was termed man versus self. When the conflict was between the main character and some other character, the theme was stated as man versus man. The theme man versus nature was seen in those instances in which the main character was in conflict with some element of the forces of nature. The various organized elements of society against which the main character was in conflict were religious, governmental, or military institutions, social customs, or the community in general; thus, these elements were used to represent the theme, man versus social institutions.

Characterization in the novels was analyzed from the point of view of the main character's position in society, his economic and educational status. The economic status of the main character was determined by the occupation, the profession, or the vocation in which the character was engaged, according to information stated or implied in the novel. Those characters, whose income as implied by their occupations lifted them above the average, comfortable existence either as civilians or servicemen, were considered in the upper income level. Main characters in these novels who were representative of the middle income level were engaged in occupations which enabled them to enjoy basic necessities of existence and a few of the luxuries. The characters who were placed in the lower income level were those who were either unemployed, without revealed sources of income, or received only enough money to provide food, clothing, and shelter.

The educational status of the main character was evolved from definite references to the extent and type of training received, from the language used by the character, or from the manner in which he expressed himself in conversation. On this basis characters were categorized as having extensive, average or limited education.

In the discussion of the setting of the novels the elements of time and place were considered. Any use of the twentieth century as background in the novels was considered the present or contemporary period. The use of any period prior to this century, for example, the nineteenth century or Biblical times, was

indicated as an historical period. The places considered were either the United States or foreign countries. The United States was subdivided by the following regions: North, South, East, West or territories of the United States. A further distinction of place as either rural or urban was included under setting.

The treatment employed by an author in the presentation of his theme was described as realistic, romantic, naturalistic, regionalistic, or symbolic. Realistic novels were those which attempted to present a true picture of life in terms of the economic, social, and political aspects. A romantic treatment represented an idealistic attitude toward life with emphasis on the emotions and sentimentalism; life was presented as imaginative rather than realistic. A regionalistic novel depicted a type of language, character, or local custom peculiar to a particular area or region. The naturalistic novels were concerned with the conflict of social forces and the more sordid aspects of life. Those novels which were judged to be symbolic contained intangible or allegorical elements.

By type, the novels were classed as biographical works, religious novels, love stories, problem novels, or psychological novels. A biographical novel dealt with some aspect of the life of any actual historical character. A religious novel attempted to express some principle or preachment of religious thought and action. Novels of love were concerned with romance or love affairs. A problem novel dealt with some economic, social, or political condition of society. Novels which dealt with the presentation of the thoughts and feelings behind the actions of

the characters were termed psychological. These areas of classification were checked in the analysis of each of the novels. The discussion which follows presents the analysis of each novel chronologically according to date of publication.

Analysis of the Best Sellers

Russell Janney. Miracle of the Bells (1946)

In this novel, a publicity agent, William Dunnigan, was instrumental in bringing about a modern miracle, the regeneration of Christian attitudes among the people in a little Pennsylvania coal town during the 1930's. Dunnigan came to the town to carry out the wish of a deceased Polish girl who had left this town and had become, prior to her death, one of the nation's great movie actresses. Olga Treskova had requested that the bells of the local church be rung at her funeral and during the carrying out of this wish, and in the face of strong, prejudiced opposition on the part of the local people, the miracle occurred.

The theme man versus religion was illustrated in this novel through the character of the publicity agent. The novel showed Man in conflict with religious principles of right conduct. Although Dunnigan was not himself a great church attender, he believed firmly in the ethical and religious principles of honesty, sincerity, and consideration. Armed with these convictions he overcame the petty, selfish, and dishonest attitudes which were a part of the people who pretended to lead virtuous lives. The main character, a successful publicity agent whose formal education ended in grammar school, was representative of

the upper middle income group with an average education. This was a religious novel because it purposed to illustrate an idealistic Christian principle. The treatment was romantic; the story was idealistically and sentimentally presented.

TABLE 1

Theme	man vs. religious institutions
Character status	
Economic	middle income
Education	average
Setting	
Time	contemporary (1930's)
Place	Northern United States (Rural)
Treatment	romantic
Type of novel	religious

Ben Ames Williams. House Divided (1947)

This was a story of the Civil War as it affected a southern aristocratic family. The impact of the national struggle was further intensified for this family by the fact that Abraham Lincoln, President of the Union, was discovered to be a relative.

Because the major concern of this novel was the presentation of a picture of the Civil War, the reasons for the outbreak, and the attitudes of the people involved, it was considered a psychological novel emphasizing the man versus government theme. The main characters owned big plantations and slaves, were drawn from the upper income group. From evidence of the

family's position in the community and the fact that the parents had an extensive education, this qualification is attributed to the family. The treatment was considered realistic in view of the detailed discussion of the war and the characters in the novel.

TABLE 2

Theme	man vs. governmental institutions
Character status	
Economic	upper income
Education	extensive
Setting	
Time	Historical (Civil War Period)
Place	Southern United States (Urban)
Treatment	realistic
Type of novel	psychological

Lloyd Douglas. Big Fisherman (1948)

This was the story of the meeting between Simon Peter and Christ in Nazareth and the conversion of Peter to the teachings and ministry of Christ. Peter's friends, James and John, had heard the Master speak, had seen the wonders that he performed and had believed in him. At first, Peter doubted but later he also saw and believed in Christ. The novel contained a subplot concerned with the love and adventures of a young Arab princess who came into Peter's life and also followed Christ.

Because the teachings of Christ were the force against

which Simon Peter took issue and to which he was finally converted, this novel was indicative of the man versus religion theme. Simon Peter as a moderately successful fisherman was representative of the middle income group and his education was inferred to be limited. The treatment was romantic; a story of the exciting, idealistic, long ago days. Because this story dealt with aspects of the life of a historic personage and incidences which illustrated the meaning and history of the Christian religion, it was checked as both a biographical and religious novel.

TABLE 3

Theme	man vs. religious institutions
Character status	
Economic	middle income
Education	limited
Setting	
Time	Historical (Time of Christ)
Place	Palestine (Urban)
Treatment	Romantic
Type of novel	Biographical, Religious

John O'Hara. A Rage to Live (1949)

Grace Tate, a woman of wealth, living in a rural Pennsylvania town during the early 1900's, because of her promiscuous relations with other men destroyed both her marriage and her reputation. The driving force behind the conduct of the woman was a rage to live; a need to satisfy an inordinate sexual

appetite.

This story was an example of the man versus self theme. The main character, Grace Tate, had a great need for love which she felt she could not control; in her fight with her emotions, she was defeated. As the daughter of a rich father and the wife of a rich husband, Grace was representative of the upper income level. She attended a finishing school which gave her a slightly above average education. The detailed presentation of the life and love affairs of Grace Tate was realistic.

TABLE 4

Theme	Man vs. Self
Character status	
Economic	Upper Income
Education	Average
Setting	
Time	Contemporary (Early 20th Century)
Place	Northern United States (Rural)
Treatment	Realistic
Type of Novel	Love

Frances Parkinson Keyes. Joy Street (1950)

A young couple, members of aristocratic Boston society during the late 1930's, tried to abolish social distinctions by making their home a meeting place for friends of different nationalities and religions. The husband, employed in a firm where his partners or fellow workers were not welcomed into the

established society because they were Jewish, Catholic, Italian, or Irish, tried to introduce these new friends into the circle of his old acquaintances. A problem arose when two of the newer friends fell in love with his wife and she with them.

Because Emily and Roger Field sought to overcome a pattern of social behavior which excluded individuals because of their nationality or religion, the theme, man versus social customs, was applied to this novel. Emily Field, the main character, was the recipient of a trust fund from her grandmother; also, as the wife of a young lawyer was representation of the upper income group. Her education was extensive including a program of training for the profession of nursing. This novel, which treated realistically a problem of social customs, also emphasized a love theme so it was categorized as both a problem novel and a novel of love.

TABLE 5

Theme	Man vs. Social Customs
Character Status	
Economic	Upper Income
Education	Extensive
Setting	
Time	Contemporary (1930's)
Place	Eastern United States (Rural)
Treatment	Realistic
Type of Novel	Love, Problem

James Jones. From Here to Eternity (1951)

Private Prewitt, a regular career soldier stationed at Pearl Harbor prior to the second World War, became involved in the petty politics which characterized the peace-time army. Having the best baseball or boxing team became so important that the army man who preferred to be just a soldier was forced, in one way or another, to adjust to the pattern.

Because this novel revealed a phase of the social and political policies of the peacetime army which reduced the operation of the organization to the whims of a few personalities as seen through the experiences of the main character the theme of man versus military was indicated. As a soldier, the main character, Private Prewitt was in the middle income group. His education was limited, having been terminated when he left grammar school to help support himself. The treatment in this problem novel was naturalistic.

TABLE 6

Theme	Man vs. Military Institutions
Character status	
Economic	Middle Income
Education	Limited
Setting	
Time	Contemporary (1940)
Place	Territory of the United States
Treatment	Naturalistic
Type of Novel	Problem

Thomas Cobain. Silver Chalice (1952)

A young sculptor named Basil, commissioned to make a chalice for the cup used by Christ, traveled from Jerusalem, to Antioch, to Rome in an effort to see each of the disciples in order to reproduce their faces on the chalice. While a very young boy Basil was adopted by a wealthy man at whose death the boy was sold into slavery. After his conversion to Christianity he no longer sought to regain his former position as a rich man even though this was made possible.

That force which exerted the greatest influence on the sculptor, Basil, was the Christian movement which he came in contact with during the making of the chalice. It was his conversion to Christianity that expressed the man versus religion theme in this novel. The main character's education was limited; his formal training was neglected while his talent was developed. Basil's economic status, though wavering from rich adopted son to slave and free artisan, was basically middle income. The treatment of the novel was romantic. Basil's adventures included two women with whom he was in love so the novel was considered both a love story and a religious type novel.

TABLE 7

Theme	Man Vs. Religious Institutions
Character Status	
Economic	Middle Income
Education	Limited
Setting	

TABLE 7 (Continued)

Time	Historical (Time of Christ)
Place	Palestine and Rome (Urban)
Treatment	Romantic
Type of Novel	Religious, Love

Morton Thompson. Not as a Stranger (1954)

This is the story of Lucas Marsh, a young man living in a small eastern town during the late 1920's and early 1930's. Marsh grew up with the dedicated purpose of becoming a doctor at all costs even if it meant sacrificing his capacity for true compassionate feelings and actions. While in medical school, his father lost his business so was no longer able to help him financially. To get the money he needed, he married a Swedish nurse who loved him but who he resented because she was awkward and lacked refinement. Later Marsh came to realize that his wife was strong, devoted and a capable individual.

Lucas Marsh's growing realization of the human values of life beyond his ambition was indicative of the theme man versus self. As a general practitioner in a small town the main character was representative of the middle income level; he possessed an extensive education. The meticulous use of detail and the unglorified presentation of the subject matter was indicative of the realistic treatment. This was deemed a psychological novel because of the manner in which the author portrays the character development and motivation.

TABLE 8

ThemeMan vs. Self
Character Status	
EconomicMiddle Income
EducationExtensive
SettingContemporary (1920's and 1930's)
Time	
PlaceEastern United States (Rural)
TreatmentRealistic
Type of NovelPsychological

Herman Wouk. Marjorie Morningstar (1955)

Marjorie Morningstar, young Jewish girl living in New York during the late 1930's overcame the pains of growing up and developed a philosophy of life and a pattern of living through her various experiences and acquaintances. Her love affairs contributed most to the experiences which crystalized her purpose for living. Introduced both to the theater and to sex by Noel Aiman everything in her future life moved either toward or away from this deep love.

Marjorie Morningstar was in constant conflict with her ignorance so the novel represented the theme of man versus self. Her compulsion was always to discover more about life. Marjorie had attended college and at various times was employed as a secretary, actress, camp counselor, and sales woman which placed her in the middle income group. The treatment was realistic. It might be thought of as regionalistic in the presentation of

the life, speech, and customs peculiar to a group of Jews in New York City. The description of the various incidents which accompanied and contributed to Marjorie's maturity made this a novel of love.

TABLE 9

Theme	Man vs. Self
Character Status	
Economic	Middle Income
Education	Extensive
Setting	
Time	Contemporary (1930's)
Place	Eastern United States (Urban)
Treatment	Realistic
Type of Novel	Love

Summary

The individual analysis of the best sellers revealed those areas in each of the five classifications - theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel - in which there was a definite concentration.

Of the nine best sellers analyzed, three used the theme man versus self and three used the theme man versus religious institutions. There was one novel for each of the themes man versus governmental institutions, man versus military institutions, and man in opposition to social customs. The two themes treated in six of the nine novels discussed were man versus self

and man versus religious institutions (see Table 10).

The main character which appeared in six of the best sellers were from the middle income level; the main characters were drawn from the upper income level in the three remaining novels. No main character was represented as belonging to the lower income group. From the discussion of the educational status of the main characters which appeared in these novels it was found that four of the best sellers made use of main characters whose education was extensive. In two novels education of the main characters was average; the education of the main characters in the three remaining novels was limited (see Table 11).

Under setting it was found that six of the best sellers were written about contemporary society and three were written about historical times. Seven of the novels had the United States as their setting: three were centered in the East, two in the North, and one in the southern region of the United States. There was no best selling novel which was written about the West and only one had a territorial setting. The scenes of the two remaining novels were each in foreign countries. This is shown in Table 12.

There were three types of treatment used in the best sellers analyzed. These were realistic, romantic, or naturalistic treatment. Five of the novels were treated realistically, three romantically, and one naturalistically. Regionalistic and symbolic treatments were not found in any of these novels (see Table 13).

Table 14 shows that of the types of novels on the best seller lists five were psychological novels and four were love stories. Three of these novels were checked as being also religious, one biographical and one as a problem novel.

TABLE 10

THEMES FOUND IN NOVELS WHICH WERE BEST SELLERS

[illegible]

TABLE 11

STATUS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE BEST SELLERS

Characterization	Janney. Miracle of the Bell	Williams. House Divided	Douglas. Big Fisherman	O'Hara. A Rage to Live	Keyes. Joy Street	Jones. From Here to Eternity	Costain. Silver Chalice	Thompson. Not as a Stranger	Wouk. Marjorie Morning- star
Status of Main Character	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Economic									
Upper Income		x		x	x				
Middle Income	x		x			x	x	x	x
Lower Income									
Education									
Extensive		x			x			x	x
Average	x			x					
Limited			x			x	x		

TABLE 12
SETTINGS USED IN THE BEST SELLERS

Setting		Janney. Miracle of the Bells	Williams. House Divided	Douglas. Big Fisherman	O'Hara. A Rage to Live	Keyes. Joy Street	Jones. From Here to Eternity	Costain. Silver Chalice	Thompson. Not as a Stranger	Wouk. Marjorie Morningstar
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Time	Contemporary	x			x	x	x		x	x
	Historical		x	x				x		
Place	United States									
	North	x			x					
	South		x							
	East					x			x	x
	West									
	Territory						x			
	Foreign Countries			x				x		
	Rural	x			x				x	x
	Urban		x	x		x	x	x		

TABLE 13

THE TREATMENT FOUND IN THE BEST SELLERS

Treatment	Janney. Miracle of the Bells	Williams. House Divided	Douglas. Big Fisherman	O'Hara. A Rage to Live	Keyes. Joy Street	Jones. From Here to Eternity	Costain. Silver Chalice	Thompson. Not as a Stranger	Wouk. Marjorie Morning- star
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Realistic		x		x	x		x	x	x
Romantic	x		x				x		
Naturalistic						x			
Regionalistic									
Symbolic									

TABLE 14
THE TYPES OF NOVELS WHICH WERE BEST SELLERS

Type of Novel	Janney. Miracle of the Bells	Williams. House Divided	Douglas. Big Fisherman	O'Hara. A Rage to Live	Keyes. Joy Street	Jones. From Here to Eternity	Costain. Silver Chalice	Thompson. Not as a Stranger	Wouk. Marjorie Morning- star
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Biographical			x						
Religious	x		x				x		
Love				x	x		x		x
Problem Novel						x			
Psychological Novel		x			x			x	x

Analysis of the Pulitzer Prize Novels

Robert Penn Warren. All the King's Men (1946)

Willie Starks, a man from a rural southern town, began his career as a self-educated lawyer and later rose to the high position of governor and political boss of his state. The life of this demagogue was revealed by his friend Jack Burden, who was both an observer and a participant in the action of the story. Willie started as an honest, sincere, spokesman for the rights of the common people but he found that in order to get into a position to execute his plans and ideas he had to resort to unprincipled tactics. Once he had reached the top, he continued to step on others in order to stay there. As a result of his unscrupulous actions he met his death.

Willie Starks, ambitious for power, tried to be the Law, therefore the theme was man vs. governmental institutions. The main character, though self taught had received an above average education and represented an upper middle income group. The characters and setting were drawn with lifelike accuracy. As an indictment of unethical political practices, the book was considered a problem novel; the delineation of the character of a demagogue made is also a psychological novel.

TABLE 15

Theme Man vs. Governmental Institutions

Character Status

Economic Middle Income

TABLE 15 (Continued)

Education	Extensive
Setting	
Time	Contemporary (1930's)
Place	Southern United States (Rural)
Treatment	Realistic
Type of Novel	Problem; Psychological

James Michener Tales of the South Pacific (1947)

This novel dealt with situations involving American servicemen stationed on some islands in the South Pacific during the second World War. Their experiences, fears, hopes, and loves were disclosed as these men struggled with life, death, and the war. The character common to most of these experiences was an American Naval officer.

The force against which this officer was in conflict was war. Therefore the theme of this book was checked as man versus military institutions. The main character had an extensive education and was in the upper income group. The story was a realistic presentation of the actions and re-actions of the characters who had to cope with a strange, new culture during troubled times.

TABLE 16

Theme Man vs. Military Institution

Character Status

Economic Upper Income

Education Extensive

Setting

Time Contemporary

Place South Pacific Islands (Rural)

Treatment Realistic

Type of Novel Psychological

James G. Cozzen. Guard of Honor (1948)

A story covering three days during World War II. A young officer took over an air force base in Florida and was faced with a problem in race relations when a special program to incorporate Negro officers was introduced. A plane crash initiated a chain of events which challenged the military policy of racial discrimination.

The evils of certain military policies and politics was the force against which the hero was in conflict; thus the theme was man versus military institutions. The main character was in the upper income group and had an extensive education. The treatment was realistic. This Pulitzer Prize winner fell under two types of novels: problem and psychological.

TABLE 17

Theme Man vs. Military Institutions

TABLE 17 (Continued)

Character Status

Economic Upper Income

Education Extensive

Setting

Time Contemporary (1943)

Place Southern United States
(Rural)

Treatment Realistic

Type of Novel Problem; Psychological

Alfred B. Guthrie, Jr. Way West (1949)

A group of settlers left Missouri during the 1840's braved the wilds of nature and hostile personalities to travel to Oregon. This story is a quiet recital of the experiences of one particular family including a father, a mother, and a son. Their encounters and relationships with their fellow men as they travel to a strange and distant land were revealed.

The main theme of this novel was man versus nature. The characters were drawn from the middle income group and, for the most part, had an education which was average for the times. The treatment in this psychological novel was regionalistic.

TABLE 18

Theme Man vs. Nature

Character Status

Economic Middle Income

TABLE 18 (Continued)

Education	Average
Setting	
Time	Historical (1840's)
Place	Western United States (Rural)
Treatment	Regionalistic
Type of Novel	Psychological

Conrad Richter. The Town (1950)

Chancey, the youngest, most delicate, and spoiled member of the Wheeler family was the spokesman in this story of a family whose attitudes and behavior were characteristic of the community of which they were a part.

The theme of The Town, man versus the community, was indicated through the experiences of Chancey who was in opposition constantly with his family and the community. The main character had received an average, formal education, extending through the high school; also, as a journalist, he was in the middle income group. The treatment was regionalistic as demonstrated by the presentation of the characters, their manners, and the setting of the story. The thoughts and motives of the main character were given considerable emphasis accounting for the classification of this book as a psychological novel.

TABLE 19

Theme	Man vs. the Community
Character Status	

Economic	Middle Income
Education	Average
Setting	
Time	Historical (1800's)
Place	Western United States (Rural)
Treatment	Regionalistic
Type of Novel	Psychological

Herman Wouk. The Caine Mutiny (1951)

Willie Keith, a young man from a wealthy and protective home joined the Navy during the second World War. Willie's most significant experience involved a mutiny aboard the S. S. Caine when in accordance with an old Navy regulation a psychoneurotic captain was relieved of his command.

The Man versus military institutions was the theme set forth in this novel of a young man who developed into a capable officer and a purposeful individual through his navy experiences. The main character had an extensive education and represented the upper income group. The realistic treatment unfolded a picture of some of the conflicts which arose among these service men. A psychological novel, the book revealed the inner turmoil and mental states of the main character.

TABLE 20

Theme	Man vs. Military Institution
Character Status	
Economic	Upper Income
Education	Extensive

TABLE 20 (Continued)

Setting

Time Contemporary (1943)

Place Eastern United States (Urban)

Treatment Realistic

Type of Novel Psychological

Ernest Hemingway. Old Man and the Sea (1952)

Santiago, an old fisherman in Cuba who had not caught any fish for over two months pit his skill against the sea and its inhabitants to catch and bring home a huge marlin. Although he caught the fish after being on the sea two nights, he reached home with only the skeleton.

The most obvious theme of this novel was man versus nature as illustrated by the efforts of Santiago to bring home his catch. The old fisherman, at the time of the story, had no income and evidently a less than average education. The treatment, although not overtly symbolic, implied an interpretation of the value of courage, perseverance, and competition. This was a psychological narrative of the experiences of Santiago.

TABLE 21

Theme Man vs. Nature

Character Status

Economic Lower Income

Education Limited

Setting

Time Contemporary (1940-1950)

TABLE 21 (Continued)

Place	Cuba (Havana) (Urban)
Treatment	Symbolic
Type of Novel	Psychological

William Faulkner. A Fable (1954)

A corporal in the French Army during the First World War, along with a few converts, attempted to end the war by refusing to fight. A brief armistice resulted from their action. The men were ordered shot but it was decided that the corporal was the instigator and therefore, was the one to be executed. The war was resumed after the death of the corporal. The story follows symbolically the life and death of Christ.

The corporal as a soldier and as a symbol of Christ was opposed to military action or war and thus was representative of the theme, man versus Military Institutions or war. The main character had a limited education and was drawn from the middle income group. The treatment was symbolic in its allegorical picture of elements in the life of Christ. This was a religious novel for it alluded to ideas and principles of Christian religion and history. The personal justification for the action of all major characters, except the corporal, was psychological.

TABLE 22

Theme	Man vs. Military Institutions
Character Status	
Economic	Middle Income
Education	Limited

TABLE 22 (Continued)

Setting

Time Contemporary (1918)

Place France (Rural)

Treatment Symbolic

Type of Novel Religious, Psychological

Mackinley Kantor. Andersonville (1955)

During the last years of the Civil War, a prison camp was erected in Georgia, called Andersonville. The men, who were put in charge of the camp, considered the prisoners little better than animals; living conditions were poor and the mortality rate was high because those who were not killed by fellow prisoners died of malnutrition, exposure or disease. This story concerned the men who were prisoners, those who were their keepers and the two families who lived near the prison and were affected by it. Ira Chaffney was the head of one of the families which was affected by this prison and served as the narrator of life in and around the prison.

The men in the novel were constantly struggling with one another and with their environment in order to survive so man versus man was the theme of this novel. Because a great deal of emphasis was placed on the sordid details of the actions of these men and the environment in which they were placed, the treatment was naturalistic. This was a psychological novel.

TABLE 23

Theme	Man vs. Man
Character Status	
Economic	Middle Income
Education	Average
Setting	
Time	Historical (1863)
Place	Southern United States (Rural)
Treatment	Naturalistic
Type of Novel	Psychological

Summary

Of the themes found in the Pulitzer Prize novels there were four novels with the man versus military institutions theme, two novels with the man versus nature theme, and one novel with each of the following themes; man versus man, man versus governmental institutions, and man versus the community. That theme which appeared most frequently among the Pulitzer Prize novels was man versus military (see Table 24).

The economic status of the main characters in the Pulitzer Prize novels was representative of the middle income category in five novels, upper income in three novels, and lower income in the remaining novel. The middle income group was represented most among these prize-winning novels. The educational status of the main characters was extensive in four, average in three and limited in two novels. Characters with an extensive education

appeared most often among the Pulitzer Prize novels (see Table 25). Contemporary society was treated in seven of the nine novels analyzed; and two employed a historical setting.

The United States was the setting of six of the novels. Of these six, three were written about the South, two about the West and one about the East. The three remaining novels had a foreign country as their setting. Seven of the settings were rural and two were urban (see Table 26).

In four of the prize winning novels the treatment was realistic, regionalistic in two novels, symbolic in two novels and naturalistic in one. The treatment used most was realistic (see Table 27).

Under type of novel it was found that all of the Pulitzer Prize novels had psychological elements. Two of the novels were about some problems of society and one of the novels dealt with a principle or preachment of religion (see Table 28).

TABLE 24
THEMES FOUND IN THE PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Theme	All the King's Men	Tales of the South Pacific	Guard of Honor	Way West	The Town	Caine Mutiny	Old Man and the Sea	A Fable	Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Man vs. Self									
Man vs. Man									x
Man vs. Nature				x			x		
Man vs. Social Institutions									
Religion									
Government	x								
Military		x	x			x		x	
Customs									
Community					x				

TABLE 25

CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Characterization	All the King's Men	Tales of the South Pacific	Guard of Honor	Way West	The Town	Caine Mutiny	Old Man and the Sea	A Pable	Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Status of Main Character									
Economic									
Upper Income		x	x			x			
Middle Income	x			x	x			x	x
Lower Income							x		
Education									
Extensive	x	x	x			x			
Average				x	x				
Limited							x	x	

TABLE 26

SETTINGS USED BY THE PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Setting	All the King's Men	Tales of the South Pacific	Guard of Honor	Way West	The Town	Caine Mutiny	Old Man and the Sea	A Fable	Andersonville
Time	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Contemporary	x	x	x			x	x	x	x
Historical				x	x				
Place									
United States									
North									
South	x		x						x
East						x			
West				x	x				
Territory									
Foreign Countries		x					x	x	
Rural	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Urban						x	x		

TABLE 27

THE TREATMENT FOUND IN THE PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Treatment	All the King's Men	Tales of the South Pacific	Guard of Honor	Way West	The Town	Caine Mutiny	Old Man and the Sea	A Fable	Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Realistic	x	x	x			x			
Romantic									
Naturalistic									x
Regionalistic				x	x				
Symbolic							x	x	

TABLE 28

THE TYPES OF NOVELS INDICATED BY THE PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Type of Novel	All the King's Men	Tales of the South Pacific	Guard of Honor	Way West	The Town	Caine Mutiny	Old Man and the Sea	A Fable	Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Biographical									
Religious								x	
Love									
Problem Novel	x		x						
Psychological Novel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

CHAPTER III

A COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NOVELS WHICH WERE BEST SELLERS WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PULITZER PRIZE WINNERS FOR THE YEARS 1946 THROUGH 1955

Chapter II presented an individual analysis of the best sellers and the Pulitzer Prize novels in terms of theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel and certain trends in these areas were noted. A comparison of the characteristics of the novels which were best sellers with the characteristics of the Pulitzer Prize winners for the years 1946 through 1955, excluding 1953, noting the similarities and differences which existed between these two kinds of novels, will be presented in this chapter.

Theme

Man versus self.-- Three of the best seller novels represented this theme. These novels were A Rage to Live (1949), Not as a Stranger (1954), and Marjorie Morningstar (1955). This theme was not found in any of the Pulitzer Prize novels.

Man versus man.-- The best sellers did not use the man versus man theme; however, it was found in one Pulitzer Prize novel, Andersonville (1955).

Man versus nature.-- The man versus nature theme also was not used in any of the novels which became best sellers. The Pulitzer Prize novels, Way West (1949) and Old Man and the Sea (1952)

dealt with this theme.

Man versus social institutions.-- The remaining novels set forth some aspect of the man versus social institutions theme. There were three best sellers whose theme was man versus religious institutions: Miracle of the Bells (1946), the Big Fisherman (1948), and the Silver Chalice (1952). There was no Pulitzer prize novel whose major overt theme could be called man versus religious institutions.

The man versus governmental institutions theme was the basis for the best seller novel House Divided (1947). All the King's Men, the 1946 Pulitzer novel utilized this theme also.

The man versus military institutions theme was seen in the best seller From Here to Eternity (1951). There were four Pulitzer Prize novels that handled this theme: Tales of the South Pacific (1947), Guard of Honor (1948), Caine Mutiny (1951), and A Fable (1954).

The last two novels, one a best seller and the other a Pulitzer Prize novel, each employed a different theme. The best seller Joy Street (1950) made use of the man versus social customs theme; The Town, the Pulitzer Prize winner for the year 1950 represented the man versus the community idea (see Table 29).

Characterization

Characterization was that element which gives fiction its resemblance to reality. The details concerning the main

characters which were considered pertinent to this study were the economic and educational status which the main characters represented.

Economic status.-- Economically, the main character in three Pulitzer Prize novels, Tales of the South Pacific, Guard of Honor, and Caine Mutiny, and three best sellers House Divided, Rage to Live, and Joy Street was drawn from the upper income bracket of society. Six best sellers had main characters who were drawn from the middle income group: Miracle of the Bells, Big Fisherman, The Silver Chalice, From Here to Eternity, Not as a Stranger and Marjorie Morningstar. There were five Pulitzer Prize novels whose characters fell into this category: All the King's Men, Way West, The Town, A Fable, and Andersonville. The only book which had a character from the lower income group was the Pulitzer Prize novel Old Man and the Sea. At the time of the story the main character had no income.

Educational status.-- The educational status of the main characters in four best sellers House Divided, Joy Street, Not as a Stranger, and Marjorie Morningstar was termed extensive. The Pulitzer Prize novels, Tales of the South Pacific, Guard of Honor, All the King's Men, and Caine Mutiny, had main characters whose education was extensive.

Main characters with an average educational background either formal or comparative to the education of the times was found in three Pulitzer novels: Way West, The Town, and Andersonville and two best sellers A Rage to Live and Miracle of the Bells

TABLE 29

COMPARISON OF THEMES FOUND IN BEST SELLERS AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Theme	Miracle of the Bells All the King's Men	House Divided Tales of the South Pacific	Big Fisherman Guard of Honor	A Rage to Live Way West	Joy Street The Town	From Here to Eternity Caine Mutiny	Silver Chalice Old Man and the Sea	Not as a Stranger A Fable	Marjorie Morningstar Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Man vs. self				x				x	x
Man vs. man									x
Man vs. nature				x			x		
Man vs. social institutions									
religion	x		x				x		
government		x							
military		x	x			x		x	
custom					x				
community					x				

The best seller novels that were written about characters with very little or no education were Silver Chalice, The Big Fisherman, and From Here to Eternity. Two Pulitzer novels had characters whose education was limited; these were the novels Old Man and the Sea and A Fable (see Table 30).

Setting

Under setting the areas of time (Contemporary, or Historical) and place (United States or other countries) have been noted and will be discussed here.

Time.-- Six best sellers: Miracle of the Bells, A Rage to Live, Joy Street, From Here to Eternity, Not as a Stranger and Marjorie Morningstar and six Pulitzer Prize novels: All the King's Men, Tales of the South Pacific, Guard of Honor, Caine Mutiny, Old Man and the Sea, and A Fable, were written about contemporary society. Of the six remaining historical novels, two best sellers, Big Fisherman and The Silver Chalice were written of Biblical times. Two Pulitzer Prize novels were written about the setting of the West, Way West and The Town; and two novels were about the Civil War; House Divided, a best seller, and the Pulitzer Prize novel, Andersonville. Twelve of the eighteen novels were about contemporary society while six dealt with historical times.

The West was not the scene of action in any of the best sellers but two Pulitzer Prize novels: Way West and The Town made use of this region. One novel, From Here to Eternity had its setting in Hawaii, a territory of the United States. Two of those novels whose locales were other countries were the best

sellers The Big Fisherman and the Silver Chalice, both of which dealt with the Holy Land. The three Pulitzer Prize novels, Tales of the South Pacific, Old Man and the Sea, and A Fable, dealt with the South Pacific Islands, Cuba, and France respectively.

In the classification of a setting as either rural or urban the distinction was relative rather than absolute. In many instances the characters moved from a rural to an urban society or vice versa within the same region. The society which was the more dominant in the life of the main character was considered the setting.

Place.-- The locale in which a character of a novel was placed, as well as the time, exerted social, economic, and political influence on his personality and actions. Individuals responded in some cases differently to common experiences because of their different cultures. Different sections or regions of the United States have indigenous customs which may be likened unto differences in culture. For this reason some indication of the place used in these novels was made. The majority of the novels were written about some section of the United States. Those novels that dealt with the northern region were Miracle of the Bells, the best seller for 1946 and Rage to Live the best seller for 1949; both used the state of Pennsylvania for their locale. There was no Pulitzer novel which used this region. One best seller House Divided and three Pulitzer Prize novels: All the King's Men, Guard of Honor, and Andersonville were written about the southern region, used, specifically, the states of Virginia, Florida, and Georgia.

TABLE 30

A COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERIZATION FOUND IN THE BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Characterization	Miracle of the Bells All the King's Men	House Divided Tales of the South Pacific	Big Fisherman Guard of Honor	A Rage to Live Way West	Joy Street The Town	From Here to Eternity Caine Mutiny	Silver Chalice Old Man and the Sea	Not as a Stranger A Fable	Marjorie Morningstar Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Status of main character									
Economic									
Upper income		x x	x	x	x	x			
Middle income	x x		x	x	x	x	x	x x	x x
Lower income							x		
Education									
Extensive	x	x x	x		x	x		x	x
Average				x x	x				x
Limited			x		x		x x	x	

TABLE 31

A COMPARISON OF THE SETTINGS USED IN BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Setting		Miracle of the Bells All the King's Men	House Divided Tales of the South Pacific	Big Fisherman Guard of Honor	A Rage to Live Way West	Joy Street The Town	From Here to Eternity Caine Mutiny	Silver Chalice Old Man and the Sea	Not as a Stranger A Fable	Marjorie Morning- star Andersonville
		1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Time	Present	x x	x	x	x	x	x x	x	x x	x
	Past		x	x	x	x		x		x
Place	United States									
	North	x			x					
	South		x							x
	East			x		x	x		x	x
	West				x	x				
	Territory						x			
	Foreign Countries		x	x				x x	x	
	Rural	x x	x	x	x x	x		x	x x	x
	Urban					x	x x	x		x

TABLE 32

A COMPARISON OF THE TREATMENT EMPLOYED IN BEST SELLER AND PULITZER
PRIZE NOVELS

Treatment	Miracle of the Bells	All the King's Men	House Divided Tales of the South Pacific	Big Fisherman Guard of Honor	A Rage to Live Way West	Joy Street The Town	From Here to Eter- nity Caine Mutiny	Silver Chalice Old Man and the Sea	Not as a Stranger A Fable	Marjorie Morning- star Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955	
Realistic	x	x x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Romantic	x		x				x			
Naturalistic						x			x	
Regionalistic				x	x					
Symbolic							x	x		

Those novels in which the rural setting or influence was dominant were Miracle of the Bells, A Rage to Live, and Not as a Stranger, of the best sellers; and All the King's Men, Tales of the South Pacific, Guard of Honor, Way West, The Town, A Fable, and Andersonville of the Pulitzer novels.

The best sellers with predominantly urban settings were House Divided, Big Fisherman, Joy Street, Silver Chalice, From Here to Eternity, and Marjorie Morningstar. There were two Pulitzer novels whose settings were urban, Caine Mutiny and Old Man of the Sea (see Table 31).

Treatment

The treatment employed by the author to tell his story may effect the receptiveness of his work and the size of his audience. The novels selected were individually checked on the basis of their realistic, romantic, naturalistic, regionalistic, or symbolic qualities.

Realistic.-- The treatment of five best sellers: House Divided, A Rage to Live, Joy Street, Not as a Stranger, and Marjorie Morningstar was realistic. Five Pulitzer prize novels: All the King's Men, Tales of the South Pacific, Guard of Honor, and Caine Mutiny were also treated realistically.

Romantic.-- Under the heading of romanticism there were three novels: Miracle of the Bells, Big Fisherman and the Silver Chalice, all of which were best sellers.

Naturalistic.-- There were only two novels that could be called products of naturalism. One was the best seller From Here to Eternity and the other Andersonville, the Pulitzer novel for 1955.

Regionalistic.-- The two novels that fell under the heading of regionalistic literature were both Pulitzer Prize novels: Way West, and The Town and both, for the most part, treated the same region, the West.

Symbolic.-- Two Pulitzer Prize novels the Old Man and the Sea and A Fable were products of symbolism. There was more inferred than was overtly stated (see Table 32).

Type of Novel

The last element of the novel analyzed gained much of its classification from the theme and was representative of the total picture or mold which was common to some novels. This element was type of novel. The types of novels which have been listed are: biographical, religious, love, problem, and psychological. One novel may represent more than one of these types and in such cases each type has been indicated.

Biographical.-- The Big Fisherman, best seller for 1948, is the only novel which was biographical, since it is about aspects of the lives of individuals known historically to have existed.

Religious.-- There were four novels which sought to express some religious concept and thus fell under the heading religious novels. Three were best sellers: Miracle of the Bells, Silver Chalice, Big Fisherman, and the fourth the Pulitzer Prize novel A Fable.

Love.-- The novels with a dominant love interest were: Rage to Live, Joy Street, Silver Chalice and Marjorie Morningstar. These were best seller novels; no Pulitzer winner fell into this category. Love was a part of most of the novels during this period,

but only four had a dominant love interest. There was only one novel which did not make use of romantic love in a sub-plot or as a catalytic agent to stimulate the action; this was the Pulitzer Prize winner, Old Man and the Sea.

Problem.-- Novels which dealt with some aspect of the economic, social, or political society were termed problem novels. There were four novels which fell under this classification: the best sellers From Here to Eternity, which pictures the social and economic evils of society as well as the disorganization of the peace time army, and Joy Street and the Pulitzer Prize novels: All the King's Men, an indictment against politics and political bosses, and Guard of Honor, a picture of the policies and politics in one of the military organizations.

Psychological.-- Under this heading have been placed those novels which deal with the presentation of the thoughts and feelings behind the actions of their characters. Four best sellers, Not as a Stranger, Marjorie Morningstar, Joy Street, House Divided and all the Pulitzer Prize novels represented this type of novel (see Table 33).

Summary and Conclusions

The themes which were used most in the best sellers during this period were man versus religious institutions (three) and man versus self (three). Those themes that were found most in the Pulitzer Prize novels were man versus military institutions (four) and man versus nature of which there were two. Of the themes that were found only in best sellers there were two, man versus self

and man versus social customs. There were three novels with the man versus self theme and one with the theme, man versus social customs. Man versus man and man versus the community were themes found in only two novels and they were Pulitzer Prize winners. The distribution of the themes found in the 18 novels, best sellers and Pulitzer Prize winners, was as follows: five man versus military institutions, three man versus self, three man versus religious institutions, two man versus governmental institutions, two man versus nature, one man versus social customs, one man versus man, and one man versus the community (see Table 34).

The picture of the economic status of the main characters in the best sellers was as follows: three novels represented the upper income, six novels represented the middle income and there were none from the lower income. Three of the Pulitzer Prize novels had characters from the upper income, five novels with characters from the middle income, and one novel with a character from the lower income level. The upper and middle income were represented in both best sellers and Pulitzer Prize novels. One Pulitzer novel alone indicated the lower income. Eleven of the novels used characters from the upper income, six from the middle income, and one from the lower income.

The range of education of the characters employed in the best sellers was extensive in four of the novels, average in two and limited in two novels. Extensive, average and limited educated characters were used in both kinds of novels. Of the 18 novels studied eight used main characters with extensive education,

TABLE 33

A COMPARISON OF THE TYPES OF BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Type of Novel	Miracle of the Bells All the King's Men	House Divided Tales of the South Pacific	Big Fisherman Guard of Honor	A Rage to Live Way West	Joy Street The Town	From Here to Eternity Caine Mutiny	Silver Chalice Old Man and the Sea	Not as a Stranger A Fable	Marjorie Morningstar Andersonville
	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1954	1955
Biographical			x						
Religious	x		x				x	x	
Love				x	x		x		x
Problem	x				x	x			
Psychological	x	x x	x	x	x	x	x	x x	x x

three with average educations, and six with limited education
(see Table 35)

TABLE 34

A NUMERICAL COMPARISON OF THE THEMES FOUND IN BEST SELLER
AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Themes	Best Sellers	Pulitzer Prizes	Total
Man vs. self	3	-	3
Man vs. man	-	1	1
Man vs. nature	-	2	2
Man vs. social insti- tutions			
religious	3	1	4
governmental	1	1	2
military	1	3	4
social customs	1	-	1
community	-	1	1

TABLE 35

A NUMERICAL COMPARISON OF THE CHARACTERIZATIONS FOUND IN
BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Characterization	Best Sellers	Pulitzer Prizes	Total
Economic status			
Upper income	3	3	6
Middle income	6	5	11
Lower income	-	1	1
Educational status			
Extensive	4	4	8
Average	2	3	5
Limited	3	2	5

Six best sellers were written about the present or contemporary life and three were written about the historical period. Six Pulitzer Prize novels were contemporary and three were historical. Twelve of the novels were written of contemporary society and the remaining six were historical. The periods dealt with in the historical settings were as follows: two novels, one best seller and one Pulitzer Prize novel, were written about the Civil War during the 1860's; two best sellers dealt with Biblical times, the time of Christ and the disciples and two Pulitzer Prize novels were written about the frontier days, the 1800's.

The settings used in the best sellers were distributed in the following way: seven employed the United States: three of the East, two of the North, one of the South and one in a territory of the United States; two novels made use of other countries. There were six urban settings and three rural settings. Six Pulitzer novels were about the United States; three of the South, two of the West, and one of the East. Three were about other countries. There were two urban settings and seven rural settings. The South and the East were settings used by both best sellers and the West was used only by the Pulitzer novels. Five novels had their settings in other countries; of those whose settings were the United States four were about the South, four about the East, two about the North and two about the West, and one about a United States territory. There were ten with rural settings and eight with urban settings (see Table 36.

Five best sellers were treated realistically, three romantically and one was treated naturalistically. Four Pulitzer novels were treated realistically, two regionally, two symbolically, and two naturalistically. Regionalistic and symbolic treatments were employed only by the Pulitzer novels, and romantic treatment was used only by the best sellers. Realistic and naturalistic treatments were common to both best sellers and Pulitzer Prize novels (see Table 37)

TABLE 36

A NUMERICAL COMPARISON OF THE SETTINGS USED IN
BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Setting	Best Sellers	Pulitzer Prizes	Total
Time			
Contemporary	6	6	12
Historical	3	3	6
Place			
United States	7	6	13
Foreign Countries	2	3	5
Rural	3	7	10
Urban	6	2	8

TABLE 37

A NUMERICAL COMPARISON OF THE TREATMENT EMPLOYED IN
BEST SELLER AND PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Treatment	Best Sellers	Pulitzer Prizes	Total
Realistic	4	4	8
Romantic	4	-	4
Naturalistic	1	1	2
Regionalistic	-	2	2
Symbolic	-	2	2

Under type of novel, there were several instances when a novel was checked as representation of more than one type; the types which occurred most often in conjunction with others were psychological, problem or religious novels.

The types of novels represented among the best sellers were love, four novels; biographical, one novel; religious, three novels; problem, two novels; and four psychological novels. The types found among the Pulitzer novels were nine psychological novels; two problem novels; and one religious novel. The religious, problem, and psychological types were found in both groups of novels. Biographical and love novels were found only among the best sellers (see Table 38).

TABLE 38

A NUMERICAL COMPARISON OF THE TYPES OF BEST SELLER AND
PULITZER PRIZE NOVELS

Type of Novel	Best Sellers	Pulitzer Prizes	Total*
Biographical	1	-	1
Religious	3	1	4
Love	4	-	4
Problem	2	2	4
Psychological	4	9	13

*Total is more than 16 because some novels were checked as being of more than one type.

Summary

There was no similarity between the themes used in the best sellers and those used in the Pulitzer Prize novels.

The themes which appeared most often among the best sellers were man versus religion and man versus self. The themes which were found most often among the Pulitzer Prize novels were man versus military institutions and man versus nature.

There were similarities in the inclusion of characters from the middle income group in six best sellers and five Pulitzer Prize novels and from the group with an extensive education in four best sellers and four Pulitzer Prize novels.

The proportion of best sellers and Pulitzer Prize novels which dealt with the contemporary and the historical period was the same; six contemporary novels and three historical novels. Although most of the novels were written about the United States there was very little similarity between the areas which were written about. The treatment used most by both best sellers and Pulitzer Prize novels was realistic.

Considerable similarity was found in connection with the psychological type of novel: four of this type were best sellers and nine were Pulitzer Prize winners.

The greatest similarities among these novels were discovered in the area of characterization, namely, the middle income and the extensively educated characters. Contemporary United States was treated most often and the treatment was usually realistic. Theme and type of novel represented the most dissimilar elements.

Those characteristics of the best sellers and the Pulitzer Prize novels which appeared most frequently seem to be indicative of the interests, conditions, and values of the period

in which they were created.

The war brought about changes in many aspects of life in America. Economically, these were prosperous years, wages were higher than they had ever been and there were more people enjoying the wealth. A few years later a surge of interest in and agitation for education for more of the people aided the continuing decline in the illiteracy rate. This post war decade was characterized by a troubled peace. Two of the themes which appeared most among these outstanding novels, Man versus Self, and Man versus Religious institutions, were representative of the need of the people to find themselves and to turn to religion in order to gain assurance of the basic goodness of man. The war brought to prominence the military organization, and might and faith were America's hope for lasting peace during these years of an uneasy peace.

From this comparison of the best seller novels with the Pulitzer Prize novels from 1946 through 1955 by means of theme, characterization, setting, treatment, and type of novel, it was apparent that they were similar in the method which they employed but different in that phase of life which they sought to present.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

CHECKLIST FOR THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVELS

Theme	
Man versus self	
Man versus man	_____
Man versus nature	_____
Man versus social institutions:	_____
religious	_____
governmental	_____
military	_____
social customs	_____
community	_____
Characterization	
Economic status	
upper income level	
middle income level	_____
lower income level	_____
Education	_____
extensive	_____
average	_____
limited	_____
Setting	
Time	
contemporary	
historical	_____
Place	_____
United States	
North	
South	_____
East	_____
West	_____
Territories	_____
Foreign countries	_____
Rural	_____
Urban	_____
Treatment	
Realistic	_____
Romantic	_____
Naturalistic	_____
Regionalistic	_____
Symbolic	_____
Type of novel	
Biographical	_____
Religious	_____
Love	_____
Problem novel	_____
Psychological novel	_____

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